

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 02670 271700Z

61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 AID-20 SS-15 L-02 H-02 NEA-09 HEW-02 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6907

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2670

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR MX US

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO SENATE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE VIEWS ON
NARCOTICS PROGRAM.

REF: STATE 64638

1. WE BELIEVE THAT A STRONG CASE FOR MEXICAN FY 76 BUDGET
SUBMISSION CAN BE MADE AS A WHOLE AND THAT INDIVIDUAL
COMPONENTS LIKEWISE STAND ON OWN MERITS. DEPARTMENT'S
NARRATIVE EXPLANATION MAY USEFULLY POINT OUT THAT ITMES
PROPOSED IN FY 76 FOLLOW ON FY 75 PROGRAM, WHICH SAW
SIGNIFICANT GRANT OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. MAJOR FY 75
COMPONENTS INCLUDED HELICOPTERS NEEDED TO PROVIDE MOBILITY
TO CONCENTRATE TROOPS IN INACCESSIBLE AREAS ON DAILY BASIS
DURING GROWING SEASON, AND REMOTE SENSING EQUIPMENT, WHICH
IS PROVING TO BE VALUABLE TOOL IN LOCATING POPPY FIELDS.
(LATTER, OF COURSE, HAS NO NON-NARCOTICS RELATED PURPOSES.)

2. FY 76 BUDGET SUBMISSIONS ARE INTIMATELY RELATED TO THRUST
OF FY 75 PROGRAM, AND CONSIST IN PART OF ADDITIONAL, SIMILAR
EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO EXPAND ENFORCEMENT AND ERADICATION
EFFORTS OF OFFICE OF MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL IN AREAS
WHERE IT TRADITIONALLY HAS OPERATED AND INTO NEW AREA
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 02670 271700Z

OF STATES OF GUERRERO AND MICHOACAN. LARGE COMPONENT OF

76 BUDGET (27 PERCENT) IS ACCESSORY AND SUPPORTIVE OF MAJOR ITEMS OF 75 AND 76 BUDGETS. THIS SUPPORT EQUIPMENT WILL RESULT IN MORE EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT, AND THEREFORE IS GOOD PROTECTION OF INVESTMENT MADE BY FY 75 AND FY 76 PROGRAMS.

3. LAND TRANSPORT (I.E. VEHICLES) COMPRISE BY DOLLAR VALUE 1.6 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL FY 76 BUDGET SUBMISSION. AS DEPT IS AWARE, LAND TRANSPORT WAS PROGRAMMED FOR FY 75, BUT GOM (OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL) THUS FAR HAS GREED TO PURCHASE VEHICLES WITH ITS OWN FUNDS. WE DO NOT PROPOSE CHANGE IN FY 76 PROGRAM GUIDANCE, (SINCE SOME FUNDS ARE EARMARKED FOR SEC. NAT'L DEFENSE INSTEAD OF AG) BUT IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO SHOW THAT OUR ENCOURAGING GOM ON THIS POINT OF INTEREST TO SENATE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL SO FAR.

4. MUCH OF EQUIPMENT PROPOSED FOR FY 76 WILL BE FIXED IN GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS (E.G. FORWARD BASE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT) WHERE IT WILL HAVE NO USES OTHER THAN ANTI-NARCOTICS RELATED ONES. SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION, OF COUSE, COULD BE USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES, BUT THIS COMPRISES EVEN SMALLER PERCENTAGE (0.4) OF FY 76 BUDGET THAN DO VEHICLES, NEED FOR WEAPONS BY PERSONNEL OPERATING IN THE FIELD HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED IN PAST BY FREQUENT SHOOTOUTS, WHERE TRAFFICKERS AT TIMES HAVE POSSESSED MORE FIREPOWER THAN GOM FORCES.

5. GOM COMMITMENT TO ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT IS ONE WHICH EMBASSY HAS PREVIOUSLY QUANTIFIED. WE REFER DEPARTMENT TO A-434, SEPTEMBER 20, 1974, PGS. 4-6, AND TO MEXICO 3636 OF MAY 1974.

6. AS A-434 POINTED OUT, GOM HAS NOT TAKEN CROP SUBSTITUTION APPROACH TO MARIHUANA AND OPIUM POPPY GROWTH, SINCE THEIR CULTIVATION IS SANCTIONED IN NEITHER LAW NOR LOCAL CULTURE. IN RECOGNITION OF NEED TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS (WHERE, IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED, POPPY CULTIVATION IS COINCIDENTAL FACTOR), GOM IN 1975 HAS INCREASED BUDGET ALLOCATED TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (CREDIT TO FARMERS, IRRIGATION PROJECTS, TECHNICAL TRAINING, ETC.) BY
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PAGE 03 MEXICO 02670 271700Z

80 PERCENT, OVER 1974 BUDGET, TO DOLLARS 4.8 BILLION (60 BILLION PESOS). GOM IS NOT SPECIFICALLY TARGETING PRIMARY NARCOTICS PRODUCING AREAS ALTHOUGH THESE TOO WILL BE AFFECTED BENEFICIALLY.

7. MEXICO HAS NOT CONTRIBUTED TO UNFDAC, BUT IT WOULD BE EASY TO MISCONSTRUE THIS AS LACK OF COMMITMENT TO UNFDAC PURPOSES. AS SET FORTH IN PARA 5 ABOVE, GOM COMMITMENT,

AS MEASURED BY PERSONNEL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES, IS
SIGNIFICANT. MEXICO A-377 (1973) AND MEXICO 1360 (FEB 13, 1975)
ELABORATE ON GOM POSITION THAT CONTRIBUTION TO MULTILATERAL
PROGRAM WOULD DIRECT RESOURCES AWAY FROM INTERNAL EFFORTS.
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